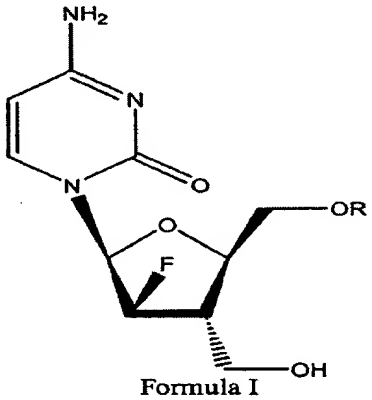
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

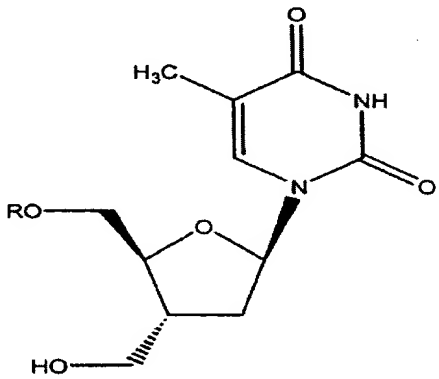
Listing of Claims:

1-4 (Canceled)

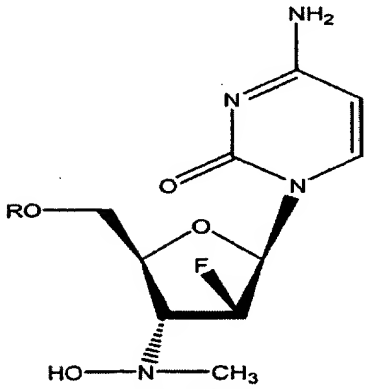
5. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising administering an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of formulas [I]-[IV] below and mixtures of two or more thereof:



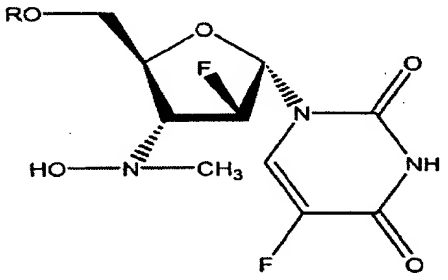
Formula I



Formula II



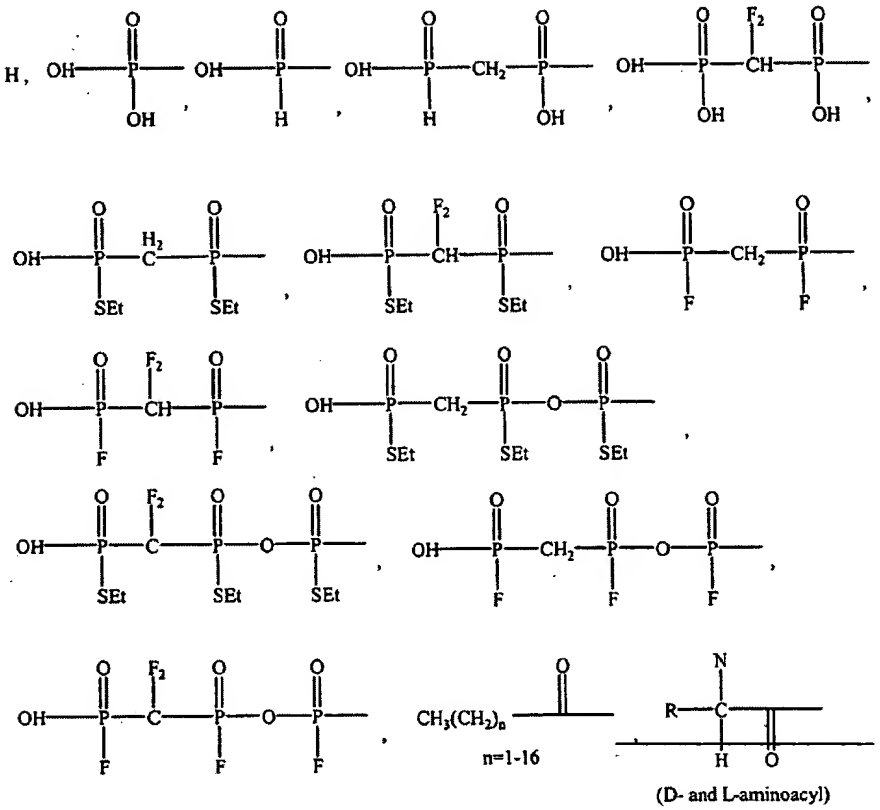
Formula III



Formula IV

wherein:

R is independently selected from the group consisting of:



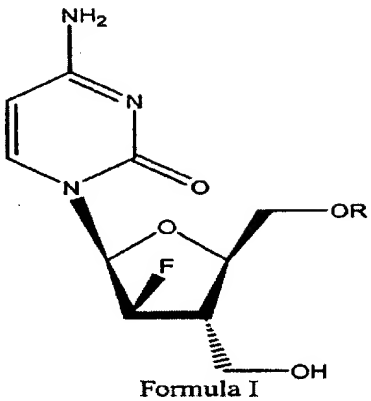
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising administering the compound in combination or alternation with one or more additional anti-HCV agents.

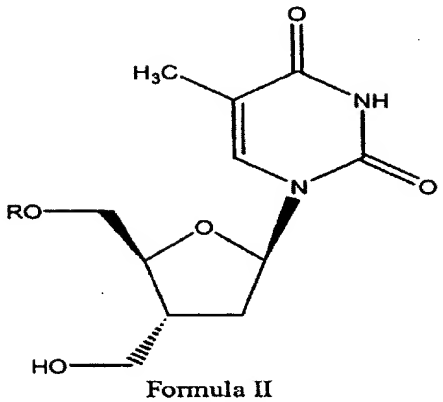
7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the additional HCV agent is selected from the group consisting of interferon, macrokine, heptazyme, ribavarin, amantadine, ofloxacin, zadaxin and reticulose.

8. (Cancelled)

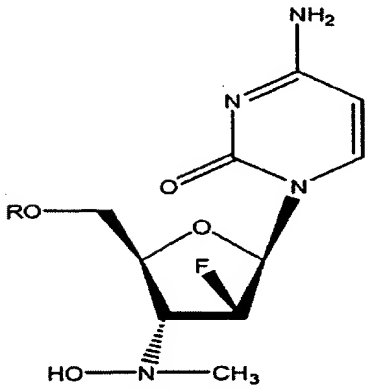
9. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of hepatitis D virus (HDV) infection comprising administering an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of formulas [I]-[IV] below and mixtures of two or more thereof:



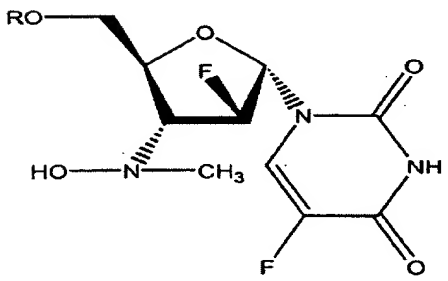
Formula I



Formula II



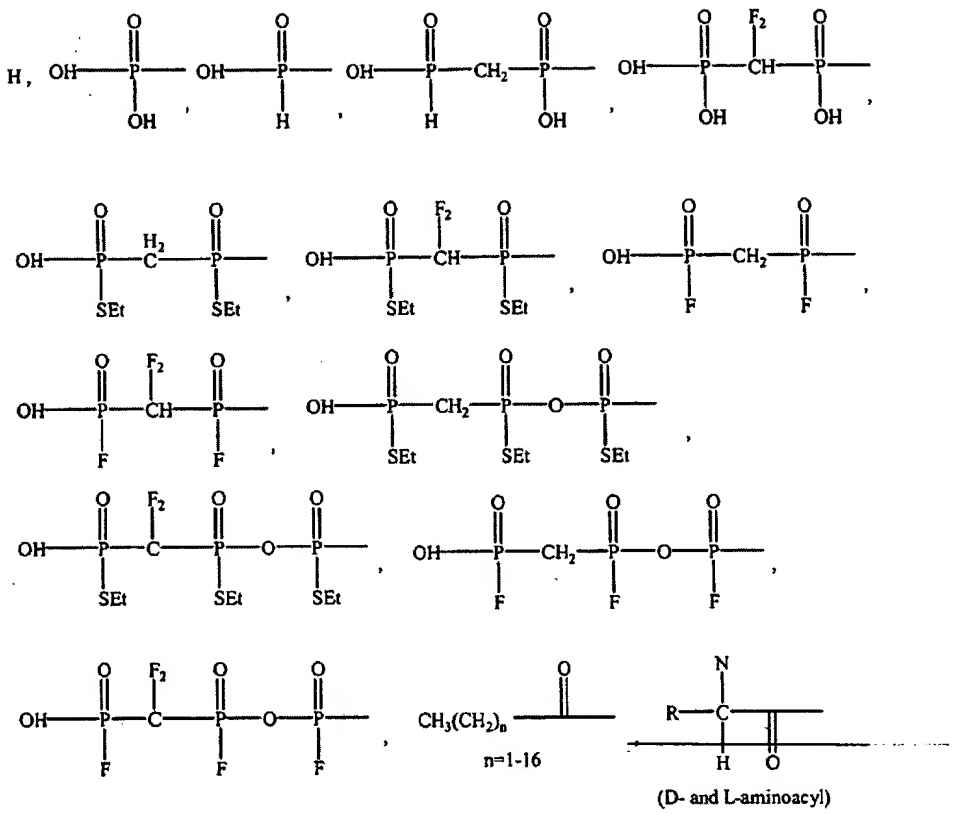
Formula III



Formula IV

wherein:

R is independently selected from the group consisting of:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, further comprising administering the compound in combination or alternation with one or more additional anti-HDV agents.

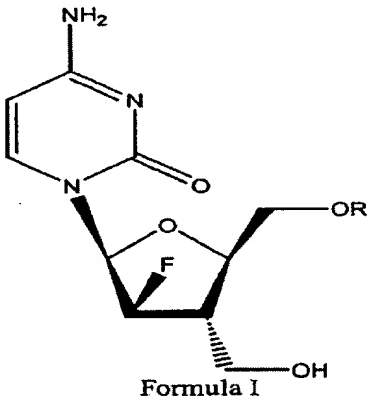
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the additional HDV agent is selected from the group consisting of FTC, L-FMAU, interferon, beta-D-dioxolanyl-guanine (DXG), beta-D-dioxolanyl-2,6-diaminopurine (DAPD), beta-D-dioxolanyl-6-chloropurine (ACP), beta-D-dioxolanyl-2-aminopurine (ADP), famciclovir, penciclovir, bis-POM PMEA (adefovir dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir, ribavarin, lamivudine (3TC), L-thymidine (L-dT), L-2'=deoxycytidine (L-dT), L-2'-deoxycytidine-3',5'-diO-valyl (D or L), entecavir (BMS-200475), adefovir, L-D4FC, D-D4FC, and mycophenolic acid (an IMPDH inhibitor).

12-16 (Canceled)

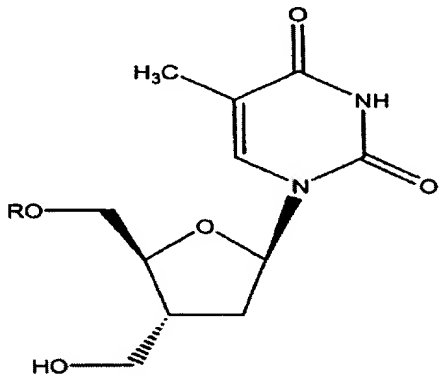
17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

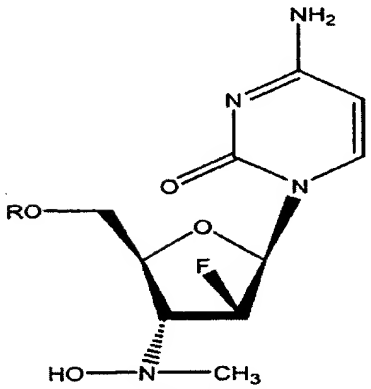
19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HCV comprising an anti-HCV agent and an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of formulas [I]-[IV] below and mixtures of two or more thereof:



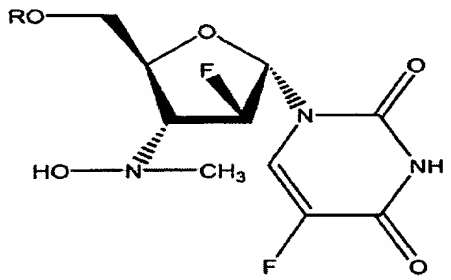
Formula I



Formula II



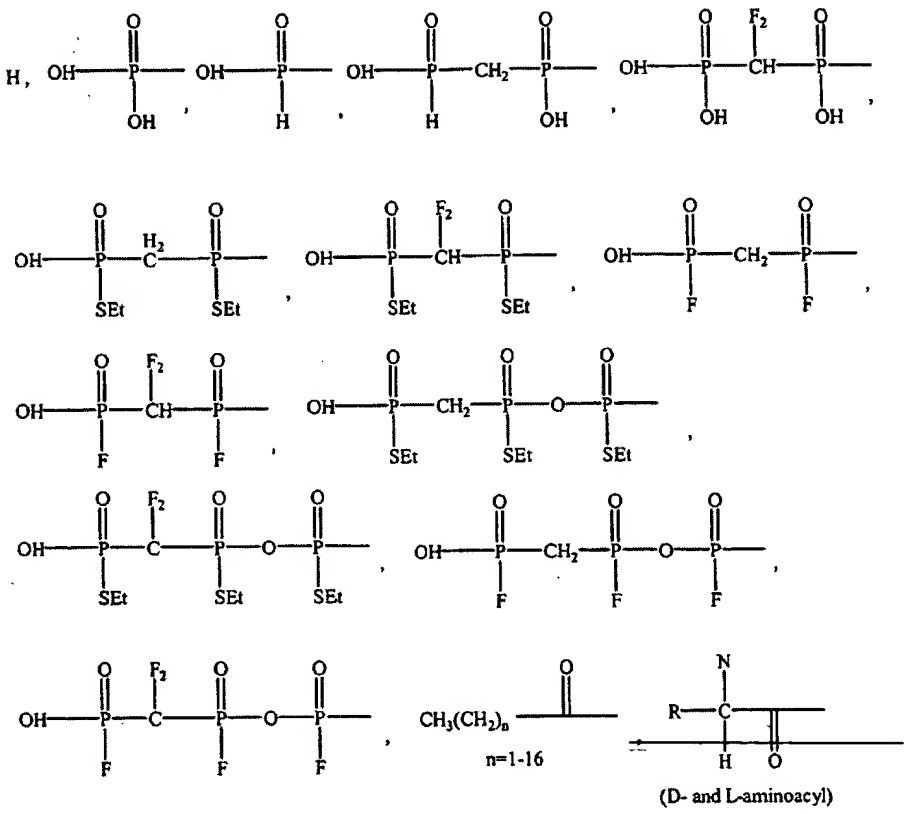
Formula III



Formula IV

wherein:

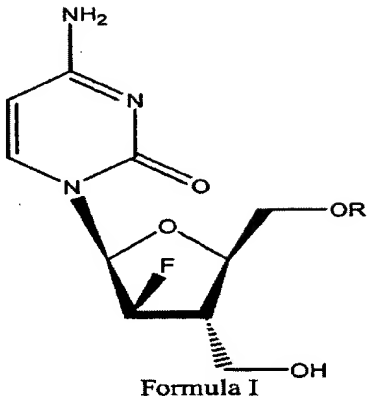
R is independently selected from the group consisting of:



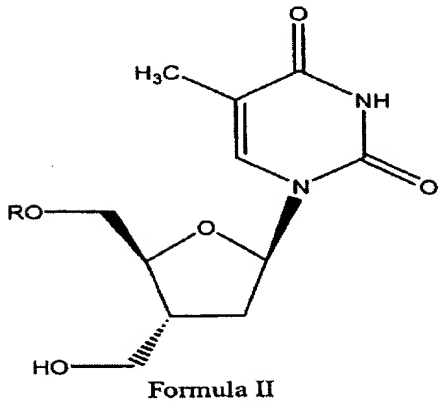
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in combination with a pharamaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (Cancelled)

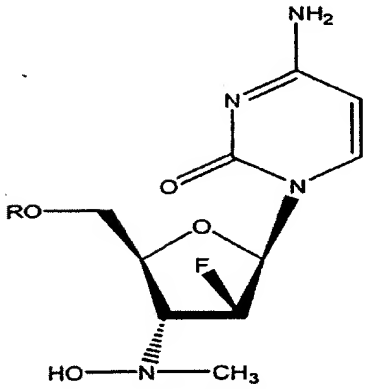
21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HDV comprising an anti-HDV agent and an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of formulas [I]-[IV] below and mixtures of two or more thereof:



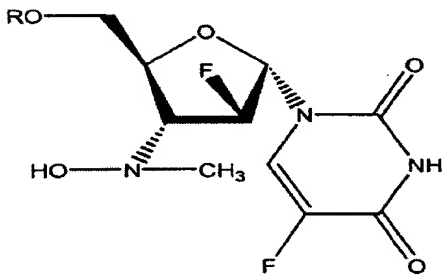
Formula I



Formula II



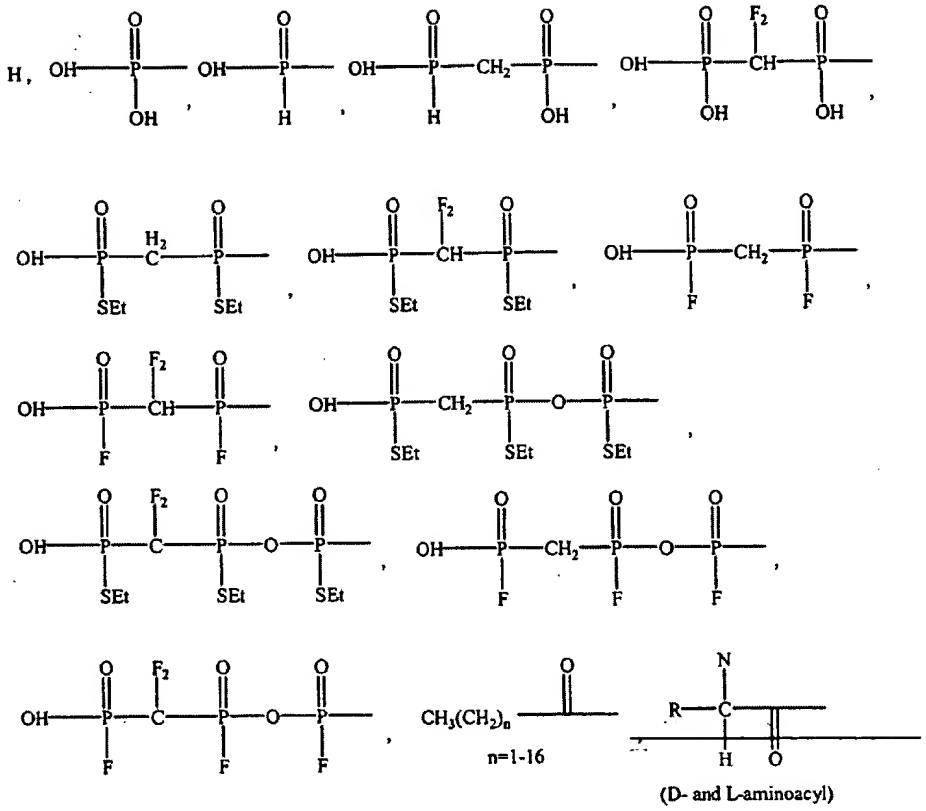
Formula III



Formula IV

wherein:

R is independently selected from the group consisting of:

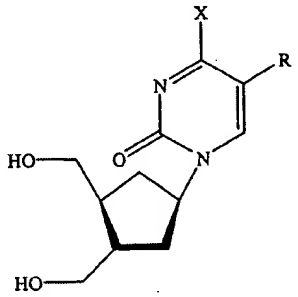


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in combination with a pharamaceutically acceptable carrier.

22-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A process for stereospecifically preparing a 5'-modified pyrimidine β -nucleoside comprising:

a. applying the Mitsunobu reaction to a chiral compound of the formula;



b. selectively protecting the 3'β-position of the resulting nucleoside of step (a) with a benzoyl protecting group or an acid labile protecting group;

c. subjecting the resulting 3'β-protected anhydro derivative of step (b) to mild alkaline hydrolysis, followed by phosphorylating the ring-opened, 3'β-protected product with a phosphorylating agent;

d. Saponifiction of the benzoyl group of the resulting product of step (c) to give the desired β-nucleoside 5'-phosphate; and

e. Optinoally oxidizing the 5'-phosphate to obtain the 5'-phosphite.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 26, wherein the acid labile agent is selected from the group consisting of tetrahydropyranyl (THP), a trityl group, or dimethyl-*t*-butylsilyl (DBMS).

28-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the compound is Formula I.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the compound is Formula II.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the compound is Formula III.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the compound is Formula IV.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein R is H.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein R is H.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 43, wherein R is H.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein R is H.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the compound is Formula I.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the compound is Formula II.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the compound is Formula III.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the compound is Formula IV.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein R is H.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein R is H.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein R is H.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 52, wherein R is H.

57-64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19, wherein the compound is Formula I.

66. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19, wherein the compound is Formula II.

67. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19, wherein the compound is Formula III.

68. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19, wherein the compound is Formula IV.

69. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 65, wherein R is H.

70. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 66, wherein R is H.

71. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 67, wherein R is H.

72. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 68, wherein R is H.

73. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21, wherein the compound is Formula I.

74. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21, wherein the compound is Formula II.

75. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21, wherein the compound is Formula III.

76. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 21, wherein the compound is Formula IV.

77. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 73, wherein R is H.

78. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 74, wherein R is H.

79. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 75, wherein R is H.

80. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 76, wherein R is H.